

**New Auburn Village Center Study
Public Meeting #3
Barker Mill Arms
February 6, 2014**

MEETING NOTES

Attendees:

- Approximately 30 members of the public

Staff/Consultants:

- Doug Greene
- Eric Cousins
- Dan Goyette
- Jennifer Williams
- Tom Errico
- Mitchell Rasor

MEETING NOTES

1. Staff, Steering Committee and Consultant Introductions - No Comment
2. Presented Project Scope of Work and Schedule - No Comment
3. Presented Study Purpose and Need Statement – No Comment
4. Presented Project Meeting History – No Comment
 - Steering Committee: May 30, 2013
 - Public Meeting #1: June 20, 2013
 - Steering Committee: July 11, 2013
 - Steering Committee: August 15, 2013
 - Public Meeting #2: September 5, 2014
 - Steering Committee: October 10, 2013
 - Steering Committee: November 21, 2013
 - Steering Committee: December 19, 2013
 - TONIGHT: Public Meeting #3: February 6, 2014

5. Presented Two Preferred Schemes Reviewed at September 5, 2013 Public Meeting As a Reminder – No Comment
6. Presented a Range of Schemes Developed with the SC between September 2013 and December 2013. Reviewed These Schemes Using Decision Matrix Presented to the SC at December 19, 2013 Meeting Leading to the Preferred Scheme. Sections and a Rendered Plan were Presented.

Comments:

- Will there be more opportunity for community to review plan before adopted. Input from the 3rd Public Meeting, Staff, SC, Planning Board and Council will further refine the plan.
- When is this happening? Explained that it is a master plan vision and that it will be phased.
- When is the bridge going to be relocated? Explained that there is an approximately 15 timeframe for bridge reconstruction and that while relocating the bridge is ideal, the master plan can be phased and even proceed with the bridge in the same location.
- Move the bridge. General consensus that the bridge must be moved.
- Keep the old bridge as a pedestrian bridge if new bridge constructed. Explained that old bridges are typically removed and if it remained it would have to be maintained by City. A new bridge would be designed to be pedestrian friendly.
- What about active businesses. The plan shows new roads or new buildings in the location of existing buildings. Explained that no businesses will be forced to close or a building to moved, but that in looking at a big picture for redevelopment for the area, many buildings do not allow for the highest and best use of a future scenario.
- A number of the members of the public said that change is needed and that this can be a vision to guide that change.
- Someone commented on how the Riverway opened up the park – making it more public and ideally creating more opportunities for businesses take advantage of the river.
- It was carefully noted that this might not be the right way to plan for the area. May be an RFP should go out to developers and see how they respond. Test reality by engaging the market rather than creating a vision and then have the market respond to the goals of the community.
- Is a roundabout appropriate at any of the intersections, particularly the new bridge alignment? Explained that roundabouts have been reviewed and in most cases function, but may not be the best solution for an urban location.
- Will utilities be buried? Noted as very expensive, but burying the utilities is assumed and TIF measures are anticipating the cost.

7. Community Feedback Topics.

A number of specific topics were presented to get specific feedback in order to proceed with planning.

Community Feedback Topics

- Relocating the Bridge - YES
- Placing Buildings Close to Street - YES
- Height of Buildings – THREE TO FOUR FLOORS
- Shared Parking Areas Behind Buildings - YES
- On-Street Parking - YES
- Two-Way Traffic Versus One-Way – TWO-WAY
- Traffic Signals Versus Roundabouts – SIGNALS, BUT REVIEW
- Closing South Main Between Broad and Cook – GOOD OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED, HOWEVER MORE SPECIFIC FEEDBACK FROM NEIGHBORHOOD REQUIRED
- Encouraging Streets with Different Character - YES
- Making the Riverfront Public Space - YES
- Designing to Maximize Place Versus Accommodating Traffic – YES, EVEN IF THIS MEANS PERIODS OF CONGESTION

8. Next Steps

Explained that Staff and Consultants would further research and refine plan, meet with SC, make presentations that are open to the public and ultimately draft a report with graphics and supporting technical documentation including phasing and cost estimating.

**New Auburn Village
Center Concept Plan**



Figure 2: 2014 New Auburn Village Center Master Plan